Hotscape

any plants from higher elevations or moister areas struggle when subjected to the long, torrid, summers common in Albuquerque. The plants in this landscape are intended to thrive on heat, limited irrigation and minimal care—while exploding the popular myth that cacti and succulents look stark and don't belong near our homes. The Hotscape design embraces the environmental and visual qualities of Albuquerque's high southwestern desert location. Two areas of compacted crusher fines serve as a combined pathway, informal sitting area and a channel to harvest water from the occasional storm. A low berm provides visual interest, keeping the plants dry that cannot tolerate much extra moisture.

Modeled after the strikingly attractive and often evergreen plant communities native to the edges of Albuquerque, this design provides a great deal of visual interest throughout the year. The open, irregular canopies of Chinese Pistache and Screwbean Mesquite provide filtered shade in summer and warming sunshine in the winter—an effect suggesting a desert arroyo. Fourwing Saltbush screens the view to the street and the dark, compact Turpentine Bush adds a pleasant fragrance with yellow fall flowers. The last, crucial ingredient to this design is the generous use of native desert accent plants, including the bold, blue-green forms of Sotol, Desert Prickly Pear. and Banana Yucca. These local signature plants are accented further with small masses of seasonal color from low perennials and groundcovers, attracting both hummingbirds and passing neighbors!

Designed by David Cristiani, Quercus+SW

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS AND OTHER LANDSCAPES, CONTACT:



Common Name	Botanical Name	Approx. Height	Approx. Spread	Light Exposure	Water Use
Banana Yucca Blue Sotol Chinese Pistache Fourwing Saltbush Giant Four O'Clock Green Lavender Cotton Hummingbird Plant Prickly Pear Cactus Red Yucca Screwbean Mesquite Turpentine Bush	Yucca baccata Dasylirion wheeleri Pistachia chinensis Artiplex canescana Mirabilis multiflora Santolina chamaecyparissus Zauschneria californica Opuntia species Hesperaloe parviflora Prosopis pubescens Ericameria laricifolia	.4 m 9 m 4 m 6 m 4 m 6 m 6 m 6 m 6 m 6 m 6 m 6	7	full sun sun/shade full sun full sun full sun full sun full sun full sun full sun	low nedium low low low medium low medium low+